

Narragansett Historical Society

On the Common in Templeton MA

September 2021

Next meeting Wednesday night October 6, at 7pm

This month's meeting will include the addition of our newest officer, Vice President, Thomas Hurd, Tom has been very active in the society for many years. He has helped with the garden, lawn maintenance, clearing trees that fell, a pivotal volunteer in building the Archive room in the Grange hall, along with a very long list of other projects and one of the most active building hosts on Saturdays and Tuesday nights.

We will also vote in a new Director, Mary Miller, Mary has also been very active over the past few years and recently became a life member, you will see her on Tuesday nights helping out in many ways as well as an active volunteer in the garden, our events, and on occasion you will find her in the loom room setting up the loom to show our visitors how it works.

It is exciting to see new members taking an active role in the survival of the Society. Show your support for these newly filled positions by helping them out when we have an event or begin a new project. We have a very active Society with many members doing their part to keep it going. Thank you to all of our active members and those who support us from home both near and far.

Contact us via email to obtain tickets to sell or to purchase for your chance to win.



CORD WOOD RAFFLE

Narragansett Historical Society

Over 3 Cords of split and seasoned wood

All proceeds benefit the Historical Society in Templeton.

\$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00

Drawing date: November 2nd 2021

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Wallace Underwood



Wallace Underwood



1942

WALLACE UNDERWOOD
TEMPLETON, March 7 — The funeral of Wallace Underwood of Otter River road, who died Wednesday, was held in the Federated church in Templeton Center yesterday afternoon at 3. Rev. George A. Ackerly, the pastor, and Rev. Richard Allen Day of Peterboro, N. H., former pastor of the First Parish church here, officiated. Many relatives and friends attended the service and there were numerous floral tributes.

The bearers were Everett and Herbert Bickford, Milton Brown and Harold Johnson. Burial was in the family lot in Pine Grove cemetery. The Smith Funeral Home of Gardner was in charge of arrangements.



You will truly be amazed at the vast collection we have been lucky enough to showcase in our collection, thanks to generous donations from near and far, His photographs alone tell a detailed story of East Templeton in the early 1900's. Businesses, the Templeton Street Railway, the engineers and workers, factories, stores, and homes. We would only be left with our imagination had it not been for the thoughtful work and hobby of Wallace Underwood. His artistic talent filled many homes with tables, chairs, trays, and wall art all by his hand. Stop by some time and spend an hour or two looking through the Underwood photo albums.

Thank you * Sponsorship * Thank you

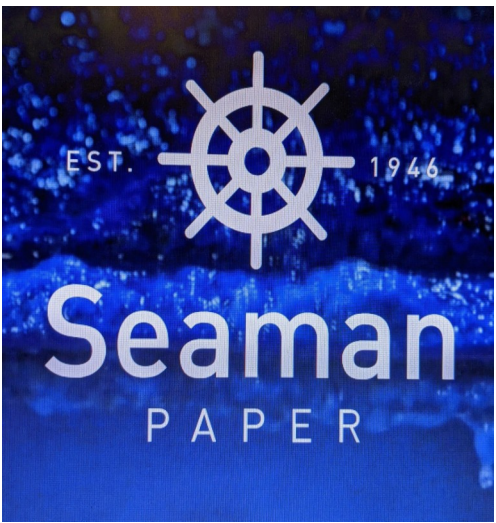
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SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION

Platinum	\$5,000.00	Gold	\$1,000.00	Silver	\$750.00
Bronze	\$500.00	Event	\$250.00		

Lifetime memberships are still only \$100.00 sign up a friend to-

Saving the Swift Winder

As reported in last month's newsletter, the swift got some attention once again. Seen to the right are the many pieces we found in the attic years ago, it was assembled and has been on display for around 5 years or so and every once in a while it gets some attention, the recent Facebook comments led me to the New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts. I made contact with Director of Collections, Jordan Berson to begin the conversation, he quickly replied with a referral to Dr. Stuart Frank, a leading authority on scrimshaw, and director of the scrimshaw forensics lab. He too quickly responded with an invitation to bring in the swift for evaluation at the Museum. Tina and I set up an appointment and headed there with the swift in hand.



Upon arrival, we were escorted into the furthestmost section of the museum complex where the meeting rooms were situated, As we opened the door, we were greeted by a 6 member panel of experts led by Dr. Frank (seen seated with me in the photo to your right). Each member examined the swift with great excitement (one asking if we were donating it to their museum). It was determined that the swift was made from sperm whale teeth, and jaw bones.



The search of their "Bone yard" revealed that they did not have any pieces that would work in the full restoration to make the missing pieces. Within days, Dr. Frank alerted me of an auction at Eldred's of Dennis MA, where they had a collection of swift parts going up in the next two days, so I quickly placed a minimum bid and it turns out I was the only bidder, so we got the parts and sorted them to find 6 pieces to make up 3 "X's" and all I had to do was cut them to the correct length and drill the holes needed to river them and tie up the section into the swift. (seen below with the jeweler's saw). Now the final install and set up to correctly organize the outer row of "X's" to allow it to expand to it's full potential. A special thank you to Stuart Frank and his colleagues who took the time to help us identify and complete the swift so it will be properly displayed. Now all we need to do is find out who donated it, who used it, and most of all, who made it?





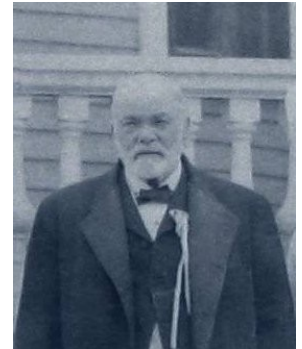
"A moment in time"

by: Harry Aldrich Jr. Historian

THE TEMPLETON INN

I thought would write about the Templeton Inn and hopefully show the true story of how it went out of existence. Too often we will be discussing the inn with visitors at the museum or on Facebook and the remark will come out how it is a shame that it was destroyed by a fire so I thought I would set the record straight. It was not destroyed by a fire, it was destroyed by people that did not feel it was worth saving.

The Templeton Inn was built by Moses Richardson in 1900 at a cost of \$150,000.00. It was designed by Ernest W. Maynard of Boston. Mr. Maynard was a native of Templeton and had designed the Tremont, Keith, and Castle Square theaters in Boston. The inn was decorated with paintings by Ketler, the artist of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. The original Templeton Inn boasted of having forty rooms to rent. Room rates started at \$3.00 per night and up depending on the location. After a few years another sixty rooms were added making it one of the largest and most popular inns in the area. There was a grand ball room, a pool hall, a bowling alley and several dining rooms. Out front on the common there was a shuffleboard court. The shuffleboard court still remains there today.



Moses Richardson

In 1927 it became the Landlords Inn and was one of twenty five throughout New England and New York. They were operated by the Landlords Inn Company. The Toy Town Tavern in Winchendon was also in this group. On November 16, 1931 the inn faced foreclosure and was dissolved by April 1933.

In 1935 the inn was purchased by a gentleman from Templeton who took down the sixty room addition and was planning on making an apartment house out the original portion. Unfortunately he fell to his death while working on the building and the building was sold. In later years it was taken for taxes by the town and torn down.



President's Page

By: Brian P. Tanguay



On Sept. 26th we had our annual Motorpalooza on the Templeton Common. With food by KRO's on the common and music by Boothill Express (music sponsored by a grant from Templeton Cultural Council) and the volunteers who spend the day hosting the building and selling wood raffle tickets out front. We had our "What is it?" table with items in the collection that were odd and unusual, most of which were difficult to identify, yet if you pry, we will tell you what they are. There are only a few items yet to be identified, so that keeps peoples interest peaked.

Visitors filled the building taking self guided tours discovering the many unusual objects on display along with the vast collection that tells the story of what it was like in Templeton during the 1800's and early 1900's. Consider being a building host during our next event to help those who are visiting for the first time. The more time you spend inside, the more you learn.

Everyone had a great time, we made popcorn, shared stories with many who admired the tin wagon, the hand tub, and the sleigh as they adorned the front lawn on the common.

Many say it's their favorite show of the year, a place to relax, listen to good tunes, and tour the museum. Enjoy some pics taken by Molly Brooks and myself.



2021 OFFICERS:
 President: Brian Tanguay
 Vice Pres. Vacant
 Secretary Amy Guthrie
 Treasurer Kelly Elliot
 Curator: Brian Tanguay
 Historian: Harry Aldrich

2021 DIRECTORS:

3 year	2 year	1 year
Amy Guthrie	Thomas Hurd	Open
John Chouinard	Eileen Bouvier	Ann Lyons
Open	Jessie Duguay	OPEN

TRUSTEES:
 Tom Jeleniewski
 David Huhtala
 John Brooks
 Open



Contact info:
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 Newsletter Editor: Brian Tanguay

Find us on Facebook—Search for **TempletonMuseum (Narr Hist Society)** It's filled with the History of Templeton, Baldwinville, Otter River and East Templeton. Pictures, stories, and faces of the people who lived here years ago. Some new images will be shared from around the town. We have created a "page" instead of a "profile" 1800 members following
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2021191824825853/>
 Located at 1 Boynton Rd. and 9 Hubbardston Rd
 Templeton MA

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME any time.



Meeting Notice: 7:00 PM unless otherwise advertised
October 6th Monthly Membership meeting!
Tuesday nights we are open from 6-8pm



DONATIONS ACCEPTED

YES! I would like to make a donation to the **Narragansett Historical Society**
 I / We have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank You
 Narragansett Historical Society and send to
 PO Box 354, Templeton, MA 01468.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.



Narragansett Historical Society
 P.O. Box 354
 Templeton, MA 01468